

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 03122 301644Z
ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05 SSO-00
SS-15 /040 W

-----301721Z 056938 /43

O R 301514Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9465

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 03122

FOR THOMAS FROM CHAMPAGNE

LONDON FOR MOOSE C/O CONLIN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOM, ASEC, AFSP

SUBJECT: WORD PROCESSING - TERP & TYPEWRITERS

REF: MOSCOW 4226, DEPT'S A-1273 OF 3/15/77

1. WISH TO ELABORATE ON REFTEL. WE ARE AWARE OF A-1273 WHICH
AUTHORIZES USE OF CERTAIN ELECTRIC TYPEWRITERS (E.G., IBM SELECTRIC)
FOR PREPARATION OF CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE. HOWEVER,
A-1273 SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDES USE OF ANY TYPE OF WORD PROCESSING
TEXT-EDITING TYPEWRITER (IBM MAG II, LEXITRON, ETC) AT OVERSEAS
POSTS ALTHOUGH THERE IS WIDESPREAD USE OF THEM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

2. WHAT WE AND MOST FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS REQUIRE IS A TEMPEST-
CLEARED TEXT-EDITING TYPEWRITER TO FACILITATE PREPARATION AND,
MOST IMPORTANTLY, REVISION OF CABLES AND OTHER FORMS OF CORRESPONDENC
E.

THE NEED FOR SUBSTANTIAL REVISION TO LENGTHY DOCUMENTS, POLICY
PAPERS AND ALLIED CORRESPONDENCE IS WELL KNOWN TO US ALL.

TEXT-EDITING TYPEWRITERS ELIMINATE

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THE NEED FOR THE SECRETARY TO RETYPE THOSE PORTIONS OF THE TEXT
WHICH REMAIN UNCHANGED FROM THE PREVIOUS DRAFT. AT PRESENT SECRETARIE
S

AVOID RETYPING BY PASTING AND TAPING SINCE THE C&R SECTION MUST
"POKE" ALL MESSAGES. THEY WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO DO THIS
ONCE THE TERP'S ARE OPERATIONAL.

3. WHILE TERP IS A SIGNIFICANT AND WELCOME ADVANCE FOR C&R, ITS BENEFITS DO NOT EXTEND BEYOND C&R TO THE SECRETARIES AND DRAFTERS WHO PREPARE THE MESSAGES. INDEED, AS CABLES WEND THEIR WAY THROUGH THE CLEARANCE PROCESS, SIGNIFICANT INSERTIONS AND OTHER CHANGES CREATE THE NEED, UNDER TERP, TO RETYPE THE ENTIRE MESSAGE. WE HAVE NO PROBLEM PAYING THIS PRICE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT TERP BRINGS TO C&R PROVIDED OUR SECRETARIES ARE GIVEN EQUAL TREATMENT, I.E., ACCESS TO LABOR-SAVING TEXT-EDITING TYPEWRITERS.

4. IF WE VIEW "COMMUNICATIONS" IN THE BROADEST SENSE, CORRESPONDENCE BEGINS WITH THE THOUGHT IN THE MIND OF THE DRAFTER, IS TRANSFERRED TO PAPER WHERE IT IS MASSAGED, SEND TO C&R FOR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION TO DESTINATIONS, AND RECONVERSION TO PAPER. IN A TEMPEST-CLEARED ENVIRONMENT, THE DRAFTER WOULD DICTATE INTO A TEMPEST-CLEARED DICTATION MACHINE, AND THE SECRETARY WOULD TYPE THE MESSAGE ON A TEMPEST-CLEARED TEXT-EDITING TYPEWRITER. THEREAFTER THE NUMEROUS CHANGES AND REVISIONS TO THE DRAFT COULD BE EASILY AND QUICKLY INSERTED WITHOUT THE NEED FOR THE SECRETARY TO LABORIOUSLY MANUALLY RETYPE THE ENTIRE MESSAGE. WHILE AN EARLY SOLUTION FOR TEMPEST-CLEARED DICTATION EQUIPMENT APPARENTLY EXISTS, NO EARLY SOLUTION TO THE CLEARED TEXT-EDITING TYPEWRITER IS VISIBLE.

5. OUR FRUSTRATION OVER THE PROHIBITION AGAINST OUR USE OF TEXT-EDITING TYPEWRITERS FOR CLASSIFIED WORK IS COMPOUNDED BY THE CONTINUING ATTRITION OF OUR SECRETARIAL STRENGTH. I HAVE DIFFICULTY RECONCILING OUR "CATCH-22" SITUATION OF FEWER SECRETARIES COUPLED WITH THE PROHIBITION AGAINST USING LABOR-SAVING WORD PROCESSING EQUIPMENT TO OFFSET THESE SECRETARIAL LOSSES.
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6. OUR DISCUSSION WITH THE OC TEMPEST TEAM IN BRUSSELS INDICATED FRAGMENTED AUTHORITY/RESPONSIBILITY AMONG THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF TEMPEST-CLEARED WORD PROCESSING EQUIPMENT. MAY I SUGGEST ONE POSSIBILITY TOWARD A QUICK SOLUTION MIGHT BE THE CREATION OF AN OFFICE OR TASK FORCE WITHIN STATE WHOSE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY WOULD BE TO SOLVE THE TEMPEST-CLEARED WORD PROCESSING EQUIPMENT PROBLEM. PERHAPS THE RESULTS COULD BE ADOPTED BY THE WHOLE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.RENNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRUSSE03122
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770109-0238
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977038/aaaaagtf.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bb755ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION A
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MOSCOW 4226, 77 STATE A-1273
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3169186
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORD PROCESSING - TERP & TYPEWRITERS
TAGS: ACOM, ASEC, AFSP
To: STATE LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bb755ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009